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CALLS FOR INCREASED COLLECTION OF WASTE

The large supply of useful waste which remains unused is a rich source of raw materials for the needs of Bulgarian industry. The waste consists of textiles, paper, metal, rubber, glass; different kinds of animal waste, such as bones, hoofs, horns, bristles, hair, bird feathers, etc; different kinds of plant waste, such as stones of plums, prunes, apricots, peaches, and seeds of grapes, mellons, tomatoes, cantaloupes, etc; victrola records, celluloid films, and many others. Up to 160 kinds of waste products are discarded and not utilized by industry.

Before 9 September 1944, 5,000-6,000 tons of bones for the carpenter's glue and soap industries were imported annually into the country, as well as about 1,000 tons of woolen rags at 450 leva a kilogram for the wool industry. Millions of kilograms of cellulose were being imported for the needs of the paper industry, calcined soda for the glass industry, and a number of other waste products which could have been obtained domestically with savings of hundreds of millions of leva.

Each kilogram of reclaimed waste paper represents a savings of 40 leva in foreign exchange, which would otherwise have been spent for imported cellulose. Each 250 kilograms of processed paper waste is equal to one cubic meter of first-grade construction lumber. From every 100 kilograms of woolen rags, 90 kilograms of reconditioned wool are obtained. Each additional kilogram of woolen rags thus saves 400 leva for the national economy. The same applies to scrap iron; from 100 kilogram of scrap iron, 70 kilograms of steel wire for reinforced concrete can be obtained. From 100 kilograms of cantaloupe seeds, 32 kilograms of first-grade seed oil can be obtained, etc. These waste materials, gathered and sent to the respective collection centers, will contribute considerably toward increasing production, decreasing production costs, and eventually decreasing market prices.

The collection and utilization of waste is inadequate and poorly organized.

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During autumn 1948 the "Otpadutsi" (Waste) Enterprise reorganized its work by setting up its own warehouses and a network of agents throughout the Rayon Cooperative Federations. It left to private buyers the duty of buying up waste, but denied them the right to have their own warehouses. These buyers were poorly organized, as they were not assigned to specific rayons, and were not required to gather waste from small establishments and households. They were prompted, by their selfish interest in making large profits, to speculate with the labor of others. For instance, the buyer Boris Radev exploited the labor of about 40 persons who were gathering waste, and Vasil Nikolov lined his own pockets from the work of his 20 employees.

To show how badly organized the waste-gathering activity is, we can point out that in Moscow there are more than 800 offices for gathering waste, with from 10 to 20 buyers and the same number of carts for hauling the waste. By contrast, in Sofia, which is the largest center in the country for gathering waste, there are only 12 warehouses. These are situated in the Stalin and Dimitrov rayons of the capital. These warehouses are staffed by 27 white-collar and 50 blue-collar workers. Hauling facilities for the entire "Otpadutsi" Enterprise consist of one cart.

Sources for gathering waste include factories, the large artisan cooperatives, offices, enterprises, and establishments. The waste from these enterprises and establishments is easier to gather because it accumulates in large quantities and transportation does not present great difficulties.

Waste can be gathered also from small establishments, schools, and small workshops, where the collection of waste must be organized by volunteers to whom the "Otpadutsi" Enterprise must pay a certain percentage for the waste collected.

Waste can also be obtained from households. There must be good organization of the part of the "Otpadutsi" Enterprise and the various organizations for the collection of this waste. Special attention should be directed toward the janitors of housing cooperatives. These men, following the example set by the USSR, can be assigned to definite rayons and paid a salary or a certain percentage of the amount of waste gathered. Each of these janitors must have a definite monthly, quarterly, or yearly plan for gathering waste. The waste collectors must be visited by agents of the "Otpadutsi" Enterprise and supplied with transport facilities. They must be required to account for each day's work. To avoid exploitation, state funds should be used for purchasing waste. Payment for the waste must be made in cash or in the form of commodities.

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